

(WASHINGTON, DC) - U.S. Representative Chet Edwards announced that he has secured funding for a new program that will help clean up the North Bosque River and Lake Waco under the final 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, which passed the House today 308 to 114. Edwards is vice chair of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, and was a member of the House-Senate conference committee that wrote the final bill.

**Edwards commented**, "Improving water quality at Lake Waco is important for quality of life and economic development in Central Texas. This new construction project is an important step toward implementing a comprehensive plan to reduce pollution in the North Bosque River, which will improve Lake Waco water quality for McLennan County families."

**Waco City Manager Larry Groth said**, "*The City of Waco appreciates Congressman Edwards continued leadership on Lake Waco water quality issues. Providing funding to a very knowledgeable and capable agency like NRCS sends a message that we want workable solutions that are fair to all stakeholders* ."

Specifically, Edwards secured \$100,000 for the new program that will partner the Corps of Engineers, USDA, and Natural Resources Conservation Services with private landowners to construct earthen terracing, lagoons, wetlands, and runoff mitigations structures throughout the Bosque River Watershed to improve the water quality of downstream Lake Waco. This project is one of only 20 new programs nationwide receiving funding under the bill.

While the construction project is new, Edwards has supported efforts to reduce pollution in the Bosque River Watershed for years. He has secured nearly \$3 million in federal funding since 2002 to fund studies and research to determine the best locations in the five county watershed to construct runoff mitigation structures. Now that studies are complete and initial funds have been secured by Edwards to start construction under the new project, Edwards believes the project will only grow in successive years.

*"Now that we have been successful in securing the seed money to begin construction, we have a solid foundation on which to build and expand our efforts to protect the Bosque River watershed in the years to come ,"* **concluded Edwards.**

Lake Waco not only serves as the primary source of drinking water for the City of Waco, but is also a key recreational area for McLennan County residents. The final 2010 Energy and Water bill is expected to pass the Senate, and be sent to the president for his signature.

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